

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

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R 121322Z NOV 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1484

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 392

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: BELFAST PROVISIONAL IRA DROPS ONE SHOE

1. NORTHERN IRELAND NATIONAL TRUST HEADQUARTERS AND MUSEUM IN 18TH CENTURY MANOR HOUSE SOUTH BELFAST WAS GUTTED BY FIRE FOLLOWING BOMBING NOVEMBER 11 IN WHAT SEEMED BE TYPICAL PROVISIONAL IRA OPERATION. FIRE GOT GOOD START AS BELFAST FIREMEN PURSUING INDUSTRIAL ACTION REFUSED TO FIGHT FLAMES. LISBURN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY RESPONDED BUT EFFECTIVE ACTION DELAYED BY AT LEAST FIFTEEN MINUTES. ONLY EXPLANATION CONGEN CAN OFFER FOR SELECTION TARGET IS THAT ANTENNA FOR TWO-WAY RADIO MOUNTED ON ROOF TRUST HOUSE. RADIO FACILITY APPARENTLY MOUNTED BY ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY FOR CROWD AND TRAFFIC CONTROL PURPOSES DURING ORANGE MARCHES EACH JULY 12 AND DISUSED AT OTHER TIMES.

2. MEANING OF INCIDENT COULD BE THAT PROVISIONAL IRA HAVE DECIDED AGAINST MASSIVE AND SIMULTANEOUS BOMBING CAMPAIGN IN RETALIATION FOR MURDER MAIRE DRUMM. THIS RETALIATION IS STILL TO COME HOWEVER AND COULD BE IN FORM ASSASSINATION PROMINENT UNIONIST/LOYALIST POLITICAL FIGURE.

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OF TEN MURDERS IN PAST ELEVEN DAYS AT LEAST FIVE SEEM PURELY

SECTARIAN. GUNMEN ARE ACTIVE AND TWELVE "TRAVELING GUNMEN" HAVE BEEN INTERCEPTED DURING PERIOD. THREE OF THESE ARE BELIEVED TO BE MEMBERS PROVISIONAL IRA AND WILL BE CHARGED WITH AT LEAST ONE MURDER.

SPICER

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NNN

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